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Front Page News

47 killed in Enugu, Ibadan auto crashes

Written by Adebayo Waheed and Jude Ossai
Tuesday, 21 June 2011

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TRAGEDY struck, on Monday, as 47 people reportedly died in two separate auto crashes that occurred in Ibadan, Oyo State and in Enugu State.

In the Ibadan accident, no fewer than 18 people, among them two children, aged between three and five years, lost their lives on the Ibadan–Lagos Expressway.

The accident involved a mass transit commercial bus with registration number Jigawa XB 633 DUT at Soka Bus stop, in Oluyole Local Government Area of Oyo State around 7.00 a.m.

The bus was coming from Kano State, heading for Lagos when the accident occurred on the Soka Bridge. It was said to have fallen from the bridge.

An eyewitness told Nigerian Tribune that three persons survived, while the driver of the commercial bus was said to be on danger list.

When Nigerian Tribune visited the scene of the incident, bloodstains, belongings of the victims and the wreckage of the bus were seen.

One of the survivors, identified as Ahmadu, said they were coming from Kano and that the bus did not stop on the way until they got to Ibadan where the accident occurred.

He said that he could not identify any of the victims as they met only in the bus.

A combined team of the officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the men of the Oyo State Police Command was at work when Nigerian Tribune visited the scene.

The victims were taken to the University College Hospital (UCH), Adeoyo General Hospital mortuary and Beloved Hospital, Ibadan.

But when contacted, the state FRSC Sector Commander, Corps Commander Godwin Ogagaoghene and the Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Femi Okanlawon, who confirmed the accident, said seven people died.

The FRSC sector commander said the accident was as a result of speeding.

In a related development, 29 persons died in an accident at Egede junction on the 9th Mile Enugu/Obollo/Afor Expressway also on Monday, when two mini-buses collided. Among those who died in the accident were four 'batch B' National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members, who were discharged last week.

An eyewitness said that a pregnant woman was the only survivor in the two commercial buses with the inscriptions: Peace Mass Transit and ENTRACO.

It was further learnt that the bus with the ENTRACO inscription, marked XL 812 UWN, was returning from Makurdi, the Benue State capital, while the Nsukka-based Peace mini bus, marked XB 504 TKP, was heading to Nsukka from Enugu when they collided, apparently due to overspeeding.

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serious injuries for treatment, were seen pulling out the remaining corpses that were trapped in the two vehicles .

At the scene of the ugly incident, passengers' bags and other personal effects, including some 2011 NYSC discharge certificates, littered the ground with human blood.

Efforts to get the reaction of the state sector commander of the FRSC, Mr Hyginus Fumosk, did not yield any fruit, as his mobile phone was ringing without being answered.

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